

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR ELVI GRAY-JACKSON
SENATE DISTRICT G

Sponsor Statement: Senate Concurrent Resolution 4

Mental Health Month; Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4 recognizes the urgent need to bring awareness to the mental health crisis affecting thousands of Alaskans and their families. By designating May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month and May 4–10, 2025, as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week, this resolution seeks to promote understanding, reduce stigma, and support those affected by mental illness and related conditions.

In Alaska, more than 108,000 adults are living with mental health conditions such as depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia. Among our youth, more than 8,000 experience depression—yet the majority are not receiving the care they need. Our state also faces an alarming suicide rate, ranking second in the nation per capita. These statistics underscore the urgent need for public awareness, early intervention, and accessible mental health services.

Mental illness does not discriminate. It touches every community, regardless of age, race, or background. Moreover, conditions like tardive dyskinesia—often a side effect of long-term antipsychotic treatment—affect hundreds of thousands nationwide yet remain underdiagnosed and misunderstood.

Through this resolution, we aim to shine a light on these critical issues and foster a culture of compassion, education, and proactive care. Let us come together to build a mental health system that supports healing, dignity, and hope for all Alaskans.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS GRAY-JACKSON, Cronk

Introduced: 4/15/25

Referred: Health and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Designating May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month; and designating May 4 - 10,**
2 **2025, as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS** one in five adults in the United States experiences a mental illness each
5 year, and it is estimated that over 108,000 adults in the state have a mental health condition,
6 such as major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and a growing number of other
7 debilitating behavioral health conditions; and

8 **WHEREAS** one in six youths aged 6 - 17 in the United States experiences a mental
9 health disorder each year; and

10 **WHEREAS**, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control and
11 Prevention, the peak age of onset of a mental health disorder is adolescence and early
12 adulthood, with half of all mental health conditions beginning by age 14, and 75 percent by
13 age 24; and

14 **WHEREAS** it is estimated that over 8,000 youths in the state aged 12 - 17 experience
15 depression, 62.9 percent of whom did not receive care in the last year; and

16 **WHEREAS** high school students with significant symptoms of depression are more

1 than twice as likely to drop out as students without symptoms of depression; and

2 **WHEREAS** more than half of the individuals in the United States with mental health
3 conditions did not receive treatment last year; and

4 **WHEREAS**, with residents of the state struggling to receive needed mental health
5 care, 29,000 adults in the state did not receive the care last year, with cost being the reason for
6 which over 42 percent of those individuals did not receive the care; and

7 **WHEREAS** 377,470 residents of the state live in communities that do not have
8 enough mental health professionals; and

9 **WHEREAS** anyone is susceptible to experiencing mental health difficulties, just as
10 anyone is susceptible to physical health issues and emergencies; and

11 **WHEREAS**, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, one in four
12 patients receiving long-term treatment with an antipsychotic medication will experience
13 tardive dyskinesia; and

14 **WHEREAS** tardive dyskinesia affects approximately 600,000 people in the United
15 States, and nearly 70 percent of Americans living with tardive dyskinesia have not yet been
16 diagnosed; and

17 **WHEREAS**, although tardive dyskinesia may look or feel different from day to day, it
18 is a chronic condition and symptoms may be persistent; and

19 **WHEREAS** one in eight emergency department visits in the United States is related
20 to mental illness or substance use disorder; and

21 **WHEREAS** suicide is a public health problem and leading cause of death in the
22 United States; and

23 **WHEREAS** the state ranks second in the nation in suicides per capita, suicide is the
24 second leading cause of death for individuals between the ages of 10 and 34 in the state, and,
25 on average, one person dies by suicide every 48 hours in the state; and

26 **WHEREAS** it is more important than ever to build a stronger mental health system
27 that provides the care, support, and services needed to help people build better lives; and

28 **WHEREAS** the state of an individual's mental health affects the individual's ability to
29 navigate the environment and societal relationships, adapt to changing situations, and develop
30 healthy coping strategies; and

31 **WHEREAS** addressing complicated mental health needs with coordinated,

1 comprehensive mental health services provides a lifeline for families and individuals
2 struggling with the complex process of locating appropriate treatment; and

3 **WHEREAS** residents of the state must work together to overcome and eliminate the
4 discrimination and stigma that may deter individuals from seeking consistent support and
5 adequate mental health treatment;

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages all residents of the
7 state to recognize those affected by mental health issues and the important role that support,
8 acceptance, and mental health services play in enriching the lives of the residents of the state;
9 and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature designates May 4 - 10,
11 2025, as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature designates May 2025 as
13 Mental Health Awareness Month.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2025 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	SCR 4
Fiscal Note Number:	1
(S) Publish Date:	5/2/2025

Identifier: SCR4-LEG-SESS-05-01-2025
 Title: MENTAL HEALTH MONTH; TARDIVE DYSK
 WEEK
 Sponsor: GRAY-JACKSON
 Requester: (S) HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Department:
 Appropriation:
 Allocation:
 OMB Component Number: 0

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2026	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2026 Request	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2026	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2025) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2026) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*

Does the bill create or modify a new fund or account? No
(Supplemental/Capital/New Fund - discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable, initial version. One page, zero note.

Prepared By:	Sante Lesh, Deputy Executive Director	Phone:	(907)465-4824
Division:	Legislative Affairs Agency	Date:	05/01/2025 08:14 AM
Approved By:	Jessica Geary, Executive Director	Date:	05/01/2025
Agency:	Legislative Affairs Agency		

Year	State	Deaths	Population	Crude Rate	Age Adjusted Rate	Rank (by De)	Rank (by Cr)
2023	Alaska	206	733,406	28.1	28.2	44	1
2023	Montana	310	1,132,812	27.4	26.6	39	2
2023	Wyoming	157	584,057	26.9	26.3	46	3
2023	Idaho	460	1,964,726	23.4	23.3	35	4
2023	New Mexico	489	2,114,371	23.1	22.8	34	5
2023	Oklahoma	893	4,053,824	22	21.8	19	7
2023	Utah	706	3,417,734	20.7	21.5	27	10
2023	Colorado	1,297	5,877,610	22.1	20.9	12	6
2023	South Dakota	181	919,318	19.7	20.7	45	14
2023	Nevada	690	3,194,176	21.6	20.3	28	8
2023	Arkansas	626	3,067,732	20.4	20.2	30	11
2023	Kansas	569	2,940,546	19.4	19.6	32	16
2023	Oregon	888	4,233,358	21	19.4	20	9
2023	Arizona	1,506	7,431,344	20.3	19.2	11	12
2023	West Virginia	349	1,770,071	19.7	18.6	38	13
2023	Maine	274	1,395,722	19.6	18.5	41	15
2023	Missouri	1,143	6,196,156	18.4	18	17	18
2023	Vermont	125	647,464	19.3	17.8	49	17
2023	North Dakota	142	783,926	18.1	17.8	48	19
2023	Kentucky	813	4,526,154	18	17.5	23	20
2023	Tennessee	1,279	7,126,489	17.9	17.3	14	21
2023	Indiana	1,187	6,862,199	17.3	17	16	22
2023	Alabama	869	5,108,468	17	16.8	21	23
2023	Washington	1,287	7,812,880	16.5	15.7	13	24
2023	Louisiana	719	4,573,749	15.7	15.6	25	27
2023	Iowa	504	3,207,004	15.7	15.5	33	28
2023	Mississippi	457	2,939,690	15.5	15.5	36	30
2023	Hawaii	223	1,435,138	15.5	15.3	42	31
2023	Wisconsin	920	5,910,955	15.6	15	18	29
2023	Michigan	1,529	10,037,261	15.2	14.9	10	34
2023	Georgia	1,670	11,029,227	15.1	14.8	7	36
2023	Ohio	1,792	11,785,935	15.2	14.7	5	33
2023	South Carolina	818	5,373,555	15.2	14.7	22	35
2023	New Hampshire	221	1,402,054	15.8	14.6	43	26
2023	Nebraska	284	1,978,379	14.4	14.5	40	39
2023	Florida	3,620	22,610,726	16	14.4	3	25
2023	Pennsylvania	1,976	12,961,683	15.2	14.3	4	32
2023	North Carolina	1,597	10,835,491	14.7	14.3	8	37
2023	Texas	4,382	30,503,301	14.4	14.2	1	38
2023	Minnesota	812	5,737,915	14.2	13.8	24	41
2023	Virginia	1,243	8,715,698	14.3	13.6	15	40
2023	Delaware	144	1,031,890	14	12.8	47	42
2023	Illinois	1,567	12,549,689	12.5	11.9	9	43

2023 California	4,200	38,965,193	10.8	10.2	2	44
2023 Rhode Island	112	1,095,962	10.2	9.4	50	45
2023 Maryland	599	6,180,253	9.7	9.3	31	47
2023 Connecticut	356	3,617,176	9.8	9.1	37	46
2023 Massachusetts	658	7,001,399	9.4	8.6	29	48
2023 New York	1,717	19,571,216	8.8	8.3	6	49
2023 New Jersey	709	9,290,841	7.6	7.2	26	50
2023 District of Columbia	41	678,972	6	5.7	51	51

Rank (by AA Rate)

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Mental Health in Alaska



1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year.



108,000 adults in Alaska have a mental health condition.

That's more than **3X** the population of Juneau.

It is more important than ever to build a stronger mental health system that provides the care, support and services needed to help people build better lives.



More than half of Americans report that **COVID-19** has had a **negative impact** on their mental health.

In February 2021, **43.1% of adults in Alaska** reported symptoms of **anxiety or depression**.

26.5% were unable to get needed counseling or therapy.



1 in 20 U.S. adults experience serious mental illness each year.

In Alaska, **28,000 adults** have a **serious mental illness**.



1 in 6 U.S. youth aged 6–17 experience a **mental health disorder** each year.

8,000 Alaskans age 12–17 have depression.

Alaskans struggle to get the help they need.



More than half of people with a mental health condition in the U.S. **did not receive any treatment** in the last year.

Of the **29,000 adults in Alaska** who **did not receive needed mental health care**, 42.1% did not because of cost.

11.5% of people in the state are uninsured.



Alaskans are over **2x more likely to be forced out-of-network** for mental health care than for primary health care — making it more difficult to find care and less affordable due to higher out-of-pocket costs.

377,740 people in Alaska live in a community that **does not have enough mental health professionals**.

An inadequate mental health system affects individuals, families and communities.



High school students with depression are more than **2x more likely to drop out** than their peers.

62.9% of Alaskans age 12–17 who have depression **did not receive any care** in the last year.



1,949 people in Alaska are homeless and **1 in 8 live with a serious mental illness.**



On average, 1 person in the U.S. **dies by suicide every 11 minutes.**

In Alaska, **184 lives were lost to suicide** and 31,000 adults had thoughts of suicide in the last year.

1 in 4 people with a serious mental illness has been arrested

by the police at some point in their lifetime –



leading to over **2 million jail bookings** of people with serious mental illness each year.

About **2 in 5 adults** in jail or prison have a history of mental illness.



7 in 10 youth in the juvenile justice system have a mental health condition.



National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI Alaska is part of NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.

This fact sheet was compiled based on data available in February 2021. For full citations, visit: nami.org/mhpolicystats.



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Technical Notes

Select Measure Type

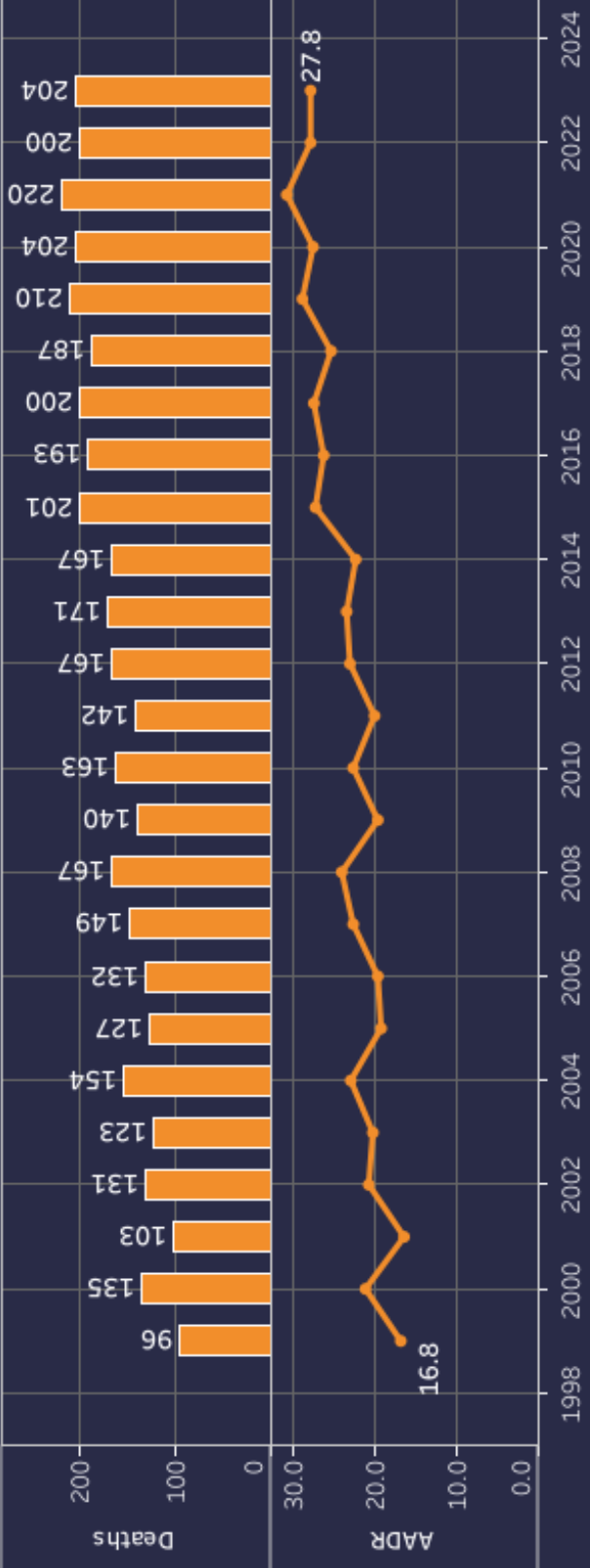
- 1. Alaska Resident
- 2. Alaska Occurrence

Select Cause

05-00. Intentional Self-Harm (S...

Alaska Resident Mortality (1999 to 2023)

Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide) (U03, X60-X84, Y870)



Demographic Characteristics -

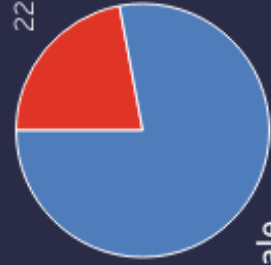
Demographic Characteristics

Select a Year

2023

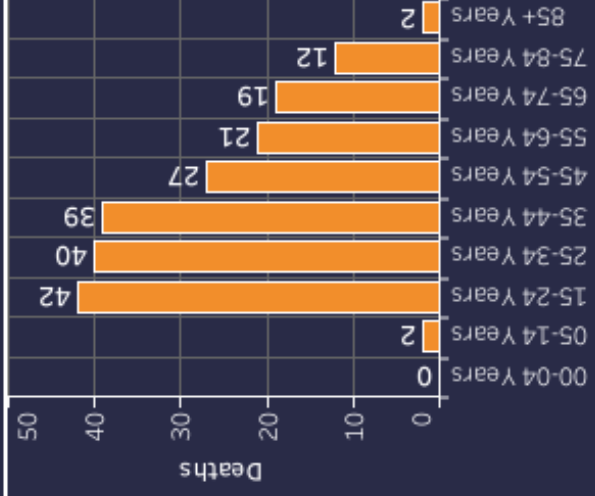
Sex -

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N=45
22.1%

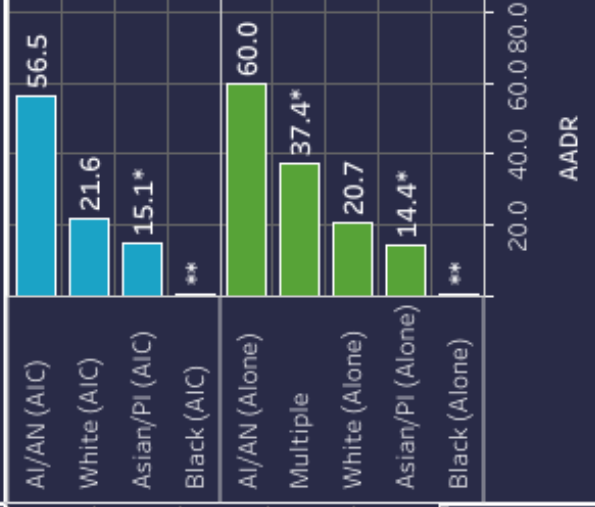


Male
N=159
77.9%

Age -



Race -



Public Health Region -

